Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of forming a waist band on an absorbent article comprising:

a) forming a stretchable front panel having a distal end, first and second side edges, and a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges;

b) forming a stretchable back panel having a distal end, first and second side edges, and a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges;

c) attaching an elastic band to ~~at least~~ one of said front and back panels, said elastic band having first and second side edges and an outer end, said elastic band being cantilevered outward from said distal end of said panel to which it is attached, and said elastic band having a retracted length that is less than said retracted length of said panel to which it is secured;

d) securing an absorbent assembly to said front and back panels, said absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween;

e) folding said panel without said elastic band over ~~both~~ said ~~other~~ panel ~~and~~ with said elastic band so that said distal end of said panel without said elastic band is aligned approximately even with said outer end of said elastic band; and

f) bonding said first and second side edges of said front panel, back panel and elastic band together by a pair of seams to form an absorbent article having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said front and back panels is stretched to stop before said elastic band is attached thereto.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said elastic band is stretched while being attached to said panel.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said elastic band is stretched to a greater extent than said panel to which it is attached.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said elastic band is stretched to a stop position and then partially relaxed prior to attachment to one of said panels.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said elastic band is secured to one of said panels before said absorbent assembly is secured to both said front and back panels.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said elastic band is attached to one of said panels after said absorbent assembly is secured to both said front and back panels.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said elastic band is attached to one of said panels at the same time said absorbent assembly is secured to both said front and back panels.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each of said front and back panels are stretched from between about 10% to about 500% prior to having said absorbent assembly attached to them.

10. (Currently amended) A method of forming a waist band on an absorbent article comprising:

a) forming a stretchable front panel having a distal end, first and second side edges, and a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges;

b) forming a stretchable back panel having a distal end, first and second side edges, and a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges;

c) attaching an elastic band to ~~each of~~ said front panel ~~and back panels~~, ~~each~~ said elastic band having first and second side edges and an outer end, ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ being cantilevered outward from said distal end of said front panel ~~to which it is attached~~, and ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ having a retracted length that is less than said retracted length of said front panel to which it is secured;

d) securing an absorbent assembly to said front and back panels, said absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent

positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being positioned between said distal ends of said front and back panels;

e) folding ~~one of said panels~~ said front panel over said ~~other~~ back panel so that said outer ~~ends~~ end of ~~each of~~ said elastic band is ~~bands are~~ aligned approximately even with distal end of said back panel; and

f) bonding said first and second side edges of said front panel, back panel and said elastic band ~~bands~~ together by a pair of seams to form an absorbent article having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ extends outward beyond said distal edge of said front panel ~~to which it is attached~~ by a distance of from between about 1 millimeter to about 75 millimeters.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ extends outward beyond said distal edge of said front panel ~~to which it is attached~~ by a distance of at least about 10 millimeters.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said front panel~~, said back panel~~ and ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ has a force of retraction, and said force of retraction in ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ is greater than said force of retraction in ~~either of~~ said front panel ~~and said back panel~~.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein each of said front and back panels are stretched from between about 50% to about 300% prior to having said absorbent assembly attached to them.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein each of said front and back panels are stretched from between about 75% to about 270% prior to having said absorbent assembly attached to them.

16. (Currently amended) A method of forming a waist band on an absorbent article comprising:

a) forming a stretchable front panel having a distal end, first and second side edges, an outside edge and a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges;

b) forming a stretchable back panel having a distal end, first and second side edges, an outside edge and a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges;

c) attaching an elastic band to said outside surface of ~~each of~~ said ~~front and~~ back panel ~~panels~~, ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ having first and second side edges and an outer end, ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ being cantilevered outward from said distal end of said back panel ~~to which it is attached~~, and ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ having a retracted length that is less than said retracted length of said back panel ~~to which it is secured~~;

d) securing an absorbent assembly to said front and back panels, said absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being positioned between said distal ends of said front and back panels;

e) folding ~~one of~~ said back panel ~~panels~~ over said front ~~other~~ panel so that said outer ~~ends~~ end of ~~each of~~ said elastic band is ~~bands are~~ aligned approximately even with distal end of said front panel; and

f) bonding said first and second side edges of said front panel, back panel and said elastic band ~~bands~~ together by a pair of seams to form an absorbent article having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, and said elastic band ~~bands~~ creating a snug fit at said waist opening.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ extends outward beyond said distal edge of said back panel ~~to which it is attached~~ by a distance of from between about 1 millimeter to about 75 millimeters.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~each of~~ said elastic band ~~bands~~ has a retracted length that is at least 2% less than the retracted length of said back panel ~~to which it is secured~~.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said absorbent assembly is secured to both said front and back panels before said elastic band is ~~bands are~~ secured to said ~~front and~~ back panel ~~panels~~.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein each of said ~~front and~~ back panel is ~~panels are~~ stretched from between about 50% to about 300% prior to having said elastic band attached to ~~one of~~ said back panel ~~panels~~.